



USAID | MACEDONIA
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 9, 2009

Press office: +389 (0)2 308-0446

Email: bvelickovska@usaid.gov

PRESS RELEASE

USAID supports the introduction of advanced education in public procurement

On April 9, the Public Procurement Bureau and the Faculty of Law, together with the USAID's Business Environment Activity and Human and Institutional Development Program, launched the Public Procurement Training Center.

Establishing the Public Procurement Training Center will create a core of certified trainers who will subsequently provide the public procurement stakeholders (i.e., contracting authorities and economic operators) with professional development opportunities by advancing their theoretical and practical knowledge in public procurement. The ultimate goal is the creation of a stable, transparent, competitive and ethical public procurement process.

"Transparent public procurement is of crucial importance in building trust of the public and investors in the government, since it contributes to a more efficient allocation of resources and budgetary savings for the taxpayers", said Michael Fritz, at the opening ceremony.

This first five-month certification program, organized by the Training Center, has been designed as a "training of trainers" program and is fully supported by USAID. Following the completion of the certification program, the future trainers, via the Public Procurement Bureau, will extend trainings to public procurement stakeholders.

In addition to supporting the establishment of the Public Procurement Training Center, USAID has also assisted with drafting the new Law on Public Procurement, enhancing the capacities of the Public Procurement Bureau and introducing a modern electronic public procurement system.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

The American people, through USAID, have invested nearly \$500 million in Macedonia since 1993. USAID is implementing projects that create jobs, reduce corruption, and prepare Macedonian students for the workforce. These initiatives improve the quality of life and support Macedonia's transition to a stable and prosperous democracy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>.